

Application No. 10/699,387

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant has carefully studied the outstanding Official Action mailed on February 14, 2006. This response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 4 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brennan et al. in view of Mirarchi.

Claims 2 and 3 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brennan et al. in view of Mirarchi as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Brenner.

Examiner states that it "would have been obvious...to modify the device of Brennan et al. with a guidewire that comprises a coating that is thicker on one side of a perimeter than on the opposite side of the perimeter, as taught by Mirarchi, to provide a lubricious coating and for the uncoated portions to allow for bonding between the wire core and the surrounding core and reduces coating flake-off or rub-off."

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Both in Brennan et al. and Mirarchi the coil is wound around a core. This is evident in Fig. 16 of Brennan et al. In Mirarchi, col. 3, lines 19-20 "Coil wire 30 is wrapped around some portion of the length of core 20." Moreover, Mirarchi teaches it would be preferable to bond the coil wire to the core. Col. 4, lines 18-19 "Bonding core wire 20 to coil wire 30 may provide improved torque transmission of guide wire 10."

In contrast, in the instant invention, there is no core. The coil is not wrapped around the pull wire. The core-less coil bends freely without a core. Accordingly, the Examiner's statement "...to allow for bonding between the wire core and the surrounding core" is respectfully irrelevant to the instant invention.

It is also respectfully pointed out that Mirarchi does not teach a coating that is thicker on one side of a perimeter than on the opposite side of the perimeter. All Mirarchi does is teach coating the outside of the wire perimeter, but is silent about a coating that is thicker on one side of a perimeter than on the opposite side of the perimeter. The significance of such coating of the instant invention is stated in the second paragraph of page 3: "Since the spaced area 15 of the coil 1 may be filled, on one side, with the coating material 6 only the other side of the coil allows the coils 5 to come closer to each other 8, thus causing the spaced area to create a curve in the coil 1 distal end marked by arrow 16." Mirarchi does not teach such a thing. On the contrary, Mirarchi teaches away from coating between adjacent windings. In the last paragraph of the summary of Mirarchi: "If the partially coated wire is

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formed into a coil configuration, such as may occur in construction of a guide wire, where **interstices of the coils are preferably uncoated**, the potential for coating material flake-off or rub-off resulting from abrasion between adjacent turns of the coiled wire is reduced or eliminated"

In contrast, in the present invention, as stated above, the coating extends between adjacent windings on the thicker side of the perimeter. Since the spaced area 15 of the coil 1 may be filled, on one side, with the coating material 6 only the other side of the coil allows the coils 5 to come closer to each other and this causes the coil to bend. Mirarchi does not teach this at all.

Claim 1 has been amended to emphasize these structural differences. In light of the above amendment, the rejections of claim 1 are respectfully deemed overcome, and all the claims are deemed allowable.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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